

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7666

BILL NUMBER: HB 1786

DATE PREPARED: Feb 14, 2001

BILL AMENDED: Feb 13, 2001

SUBJECT: Worker's Compensation Magistrates.

FISCAL ANALYST: Chuck Mayfield

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FUNDS AFFECTED: ☒ **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

STATE IMPACT	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003
State Revenues			
State Expenditures		190,000	190,000
Net Increase (Decrease)		(190,000)	(190,000)

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill authorizes the Worker's Compensation Board to appoint magistrates to determine issues arising under Worker's Compensation, with certain exceptions. It requires a magistrate to report the magistrate's findings in an evidentiary hearing to the board member to whom the case was assigned. The bill requires the board member to enter the final order or award. The bill also makes conforming changes. It appropriates \$190,000 for expenses related to worker's compensation magistrates for each of FY 2002 and FY 2003.

Effective Date: July 1, 2001.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) The bill appropriates \$190,000 for each of FY 2002 and FY 2003 to fund board-appointed magistrates. The magistrates would help the Board reduce the backlog of appeals the board currently has on file. It is estimated that each board member has approximately 60-80 cases assigned to them.

As a point of reference, worker's compensation paid to state employees, exclusive of medical benefits, totaled approximately \$2.9 M in FY 1996, \$3.1 M in FY 1997, \$3.4 M in FY 1998, \$3.7 M in FY 1999, and \$3.9 in FY 2000.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Worker's Compensation Board, All Agencies.

Local Agencies Affected: All Units.

Information Sources: